An Extract
Of a Letter, Written from Holland, *about* Preſerving of Ships from being Worm-eaten.

This *Extract* is borrowed from the *French Journal des Scavans* of *Febr.* 15. 1666. and is here inſerted, to excite Inventive heads *here*, to overtake the Propoſer in *Holland.* The letter runs thus:

Although you have viſited our Port (*Amſterdam*) I know not whether you have noted the ill condition, our ſhips are in, that return from the *Indies.* There is in thoſe Seas a kind of ſmall worms, that faſten themſelves to the Timber of the ſhips, and ſo pierce them, that they take water every where; or if they do not altogether pierce them thorow, they ſo weaken the wood, that it is almoſt impoſſible to repair them. We have at preſent a Man here, that pretends to have found an admirable ſecret to remedy this evil. That, which would render this ſecret the more important, is, that hitherto very many ways have been uſed to effect it, but without ſucceſs. Some have imployed Deal, Hair and Lime, *&c.* and therewith lined their ſhips; but, beſides that this does not altogether affright the worms, it retards much the ſhips Courſe. The *Portugals* ſcorch their ſhips, inſomuch that in the quick works there is made a coaly cruſt of about an *Inch* thick. But as this is dangerous, it happening not ſeldom, that the whole veſſel is burnt: ſo the reaſon why worms eat not thorow *Portugal* ſhips, is conceived to be the exceeding hardneſs of the Timber, employed by them.

We expect with impatience the nature and effect of this Propoſition. Many have already ventur'd to give their thoughts concerning it. Some ſay, there needs no more, but to build Ships of a harder kind of Wood, than the uſual. Others having obſerved, that theſe Worms faſten not to a kind of wild *Indian* Pear-tree, which is highly bitter, do thereupon ſuggeſt,

geſt, that the beſt Expedient would be, to find out a Wood having that quality. But certainly there being now no Timber, fit for Ships, that is not known, 'tis not likely that any will be found either more hard, or more bitter, than that, which has been hitherto employed. Some do imagine, that the Propoſer will, by certain *Lixiviums*, give to the ordinary Wood ſuch a quality and bitterneſs, as is found in the already mention'd *Indian* Pear-tree. But this alſo will hardly ſucceed, ſince it will be requiſite not only to make *Lixiviums*, in great quantities at an eaſie rate, and ſtrong enough to penetrate the thick ſides of a Ship, but alſo to make them durable enough, not to be waſh't out by the Sea. Yet notwithſtanding, in theſe matters one ought to ſuſpend on's judgement, untill experience do ſhew, what is to be believed of them.

So far the Extract. To which it may perhaps not be unſeaſonable to add, that a very worthy perſon in *London*, ſuggeſts the Pitch, drawn out of Sea coles, for a good Remedy to ſcare away theſe noyſome inſects.

An Account
Of a Book, very lately publiſh't, entituled, The Origine of Forms and Qualities, *illuſtrated by Conſiderations and Experiments, by the Honourable* Robert Boyle.

This Curious and Excellent Piece, is a kind of *Introduction* to the *Principles* of the *Mechanical Philoſophy*, explicating, by very Conſiderable Obſervations and Experiments, what may be, according to ſuch Principles, conceived of the *Nature and Origine of Qualities and Forms*; the knowledge whereof, either makes or ſuppoſes the Fundamental and Uſeful part of *Natural Philoſophy*. In doing of which, the Author, to have his way the clearer, writes rather for the *Corpuſcularian* Philoſophers (as he is pleaſed to call them) in *General*, than any

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